

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: ARAB ROLE

REFS: A. STATE 124264 B. STATE 123233 C. HELSINK 1709 D. ROME 5939

SUMMARY: PURSUANT TO REF A, DCM SAW MFA VICE DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS REGARDING ITALIAN VIEWS ON ARAB ROLE AT CSCE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF INDICATION (REF C) THAT MINTOFF PROPOSAL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED. IN RESPONSE TO DCM' S PRESENTATION, MFA OFFICIAL SAID ITALIANS HAD UNTIL NOW BEEN AGAINST MINTOFF PLAN, BUT NOW THAT IT APPARENTLY HAD BEEN INTRODUCED, ITALY WOULD BE HARD PUT TO OPPOSE IT, GIVEN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB, THE ITALIAN EXPECTATION THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT OPPOSE IT, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SOVIETS WILL EXPLOIT THE ISSUE. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT THE SIMPLE MAKING OF STATEMENTS WOULD NOT GIVE EITHER ALGERIA OR TUNISIA PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MPT AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT. HE EMPHASIZED NO FINAL ITALIAN DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE SOUGHT. DCM URGED FULL CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ALLIES BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING JUNE 26 MEETING, DCM TOOK UP WITH VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MILESI FERRETTI CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REF A, ALONG WITH INDICATION FROM HELSINKI (REF C) THAT MALTESE PROPOSAL THAT ALGERIAN AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS BE PERMITTED TO MAKE STATEMENTS AT MINISTERIAL MEETING AT CSCE WILL BE CIRCULATED. DRAWING ON REFS A AND B, DCM EMPHAZIED THAT U. S. FLATLY OPPOSED PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER STATUS FOR ALGERIANS OR TUNISIANS AT CSCE. NOT ONLY WOULD GRANTING SUCH STATUS CALL INTO QUESTION MPT AGREEMENTS ON MATTERS OF PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE, BUT ALSO COULD INJECT ARAB- ISRAELI AND MEDITERRANEAN MILITARY FORCES INTO CSCE FORUM.

2. MILESI FERRETTI EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH VIEW THAT ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS SHOULD HAVE NEITHER PARTICIPANT NOR OBSERVER STATUS. IN ELABORATING ON REF D, HE SAID ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DUCCI HAD IN FACT ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE MINTOFF FROM MAKING THIS PROPOSAL. HE SAID ITALIANS HAD HOPED THAT SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND TO HAVE MAGHREB VIEWS PRESENTED DURING SECOND COMMISSION PHASE IN KEEPING WITH MPT COMPROMISE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, NOW THAT IT APPEARS THAT
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MINTOFF HAD GONE AHEAD ANYWAY (AND HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT MINTOFF WOULD), QUESTION WAS CAN THE WEST, PARTICULARLY EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN STATES (READ ITALY AND FRANCE), OPPOSE MINTOFF PROPOSAL. HE NOTED THAT TECHNICALLY THE MAKING OF STATEMENTS AT THE MINISTERIAL BY THE ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS WOULD NOT VIOLATE THE AGREED- UPON COMPROMISE LANGUAGE IN THE MPT REPORT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS BY NON- PARTICIPANTS. HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT

THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKELY ADDRESS THE MINTOFF PROPOSAL ON PURELY TACTICAL GOUNDS, I. E., IF THE WEST SAYS NO, THE SOVIETS MIGHT WELL SAY YES. MILESI FERRETTI ALSO WONDERED ALOUD ABOUT HOW THE FRENCH WOULD EVENTUALLY COME DOWN. THE FRENCH, HE SAID, AT THE EC COMMITTEE OF NINE MEETING IN COPENHAGEN RECENTLY HAD TAKEN A HARD NEGATIVE LINE ON ANY ARAB PARTICIPATION, BUT HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD STICK TO IT.

3. NOW THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS OR IS LIKELY TO BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY, THE ITALIANS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT TACK TO TAKE. THE GOI, HE SAID, COULD NOT VERY WELL OPPOSE IT, GIVEN THEIR GEOGRAPHY, THE BELIEF THAT THE FRENCH WILL NOT OPPOSE IT, THE SOVIET ANGLE. THE CHOICE IS BASICALLY WHETHER TO SUPPORT IT OR PERHAPS SEEK SOME COMPROMISE. THIS MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF SCHEDULING THE ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS FOR THE LAST DAY AS SORT OF AN AFTER-THOUGHT. HE EMPHASIZED NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS YET.

4. THE DCM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FACT THAT THE ITALIANS ARE OPPOSED TO PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE STRICT SENSE OF THE WORLD AND URGED THAT THE ITALIANS CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE MAGHREB STATEMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE, THE ISSUE BE FULLY AIRED IN CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN ALLIES.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ITALIANS REGRET THAT MINTOFF HAS CARRIED THE ISSUE THIS FAR AND FIND THEMSELVES IN A BOX. THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE SEEN AS OPPOSING ALGERIA AND TUNISIA, ESPECIALLY IF THE FRENCH AND THE SOVIETS ACCEPT THE MINTOFF IDEA OR SOME VARIANT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE MATTER BE DEALT WITH THE PHASE II ALONG THE LINES OF OUR OWN POSITION. WE DOUBT THAT AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE THEM TO OPPOSE THE MINTOFF PROPOSAL WILL BE SUCCESSFUL UNLESS THE MINISTERS (EAST AND WEST) AT HELSINKI ARE TOTALLY NEGATIVE. (#)
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6. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AS TO THE POSITION WE WILL TAKE ON THE MINTOFF PROPOSAL NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED. CONCERNED WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF DUCCI'S CURRENT PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON TO GO OVER OUR POSITION WITH HIM THERE. HE WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION AT HELSINKI ACCORDING TO MILESE FERRETTI. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/ T: ROME 6024 - THIRD SENTENCE PARA 5 AS RECEIVED. SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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